<u>IN THE SPECIFICATION</u>:

Please insert after the title and before the first paragraph at page 1, the following paragraph:

--The present application is a division of Application No. 08/991,876 filed December 16, 1997, the entire contents of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 6 and ending at line 12, as follows:

--The invention relates to an image pickup apparatus such as an electronic camera and to a recording control apparatus. More particularly, the invention relates to an image pickup apparatus such as an electronic camera having <u>means for</u> erasing ~~means of~~ an image file which was recorded after photographing, and to a recording control apparatus.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 24 and ending at page 2, line 2, as follows:

--In the above conventional <u>methods</u> ~~method~~, however, the erroneous erasure cannot be perfectly eliminated and there is a case where the image file is carelessly and erroneously erased. There is also a drawback <u>in</u> ~~such~~ that even when erasing <u>an</u> ~~the~~ image file which can be erased, it cannot be easily erased.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 2, line 5 and ending at line 15, as follows:

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--To <u>overcome</u> ~~accomplish~~ at least one of the foregoing drawbacks, according to an embodiment of the <u>present</u> invention, there is provided an electronic camera comprising: image pickup means for picking up an object; storing means for storing an image picked up by the image pickup means; erasing means for erasing the image stored by the storing means; and notifying means for notifying <u>the user</u> of an advance notice of the erasure of the image by the erasing means, wherein the notifying means changes <u>a content of the</u> notification ~~contents~~ in accordance with data attached to the image as a target to be erased.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 3, line 9 and ending at page 4, line 8, as follows:

--Fig. 1 first shows a constructional diagram of an image pickup apparatus according to the first embodiment of the invention. In Fig. 1, reference numeral 1 denotes a lens unit whose focal distance can be changed; 2 a shutter for controlling an exposing time; 3 an image pickup sensor such as a solid state image pickup device or the like which picks up an object and also has functions to measure a distance, light, and a color; 4 a sample-hold circuit for detecting an image signal itself from the image pickup sensor 3; 5 an A/D converter for converting the analog image signal from the sample-hold circuit 4 to a digital signal; 6 a memory control device for controlling a storing operation, a reading operation, and an erasing operation for a storage device; 7 an interface circuit for connecting an external storage device to the image pickup apparatus; 8 the external storage device attached to the outside; 9a a display device such as <u>an</u> LED and/or LCD or the like for displaying a state of the apparatus; 9b a sound device such as a buzzer or the like for indicating <u>indicating</u> ~~showing~~ a state of the apparatus; 10 a control circuit which is mainly constructed by a CPU and its peripheral circuit and controls the whole apparatus; 11 an internal storage

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device built in the apparatus; and 12 a switch group for <u>inputting operation instructions,</u> <u>e.g.,</u> ~~instructing~~ to pickup an image, ~~the~~ recording to the storage device, ~~the~~ erasure, and the like.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 4, line 9 and ending at page 5, line 2, as follows:

--Fig. 2 shows a control flowchart of the control circuit 10 according to the first embodiment of the <u>present</u> invention. First in step S1, when an erasing switch comprised in the switch group 12 is ON, step S2 follows. When the erasing switch is OFF, the processing routine waits in step S1. In step S2, data attached to an image selected at that time is read and step S3 follows. The data attached to the image indicates whether an image file thereof <u>previously</u> has been transferred to any other storing area ~~before~~ or not. A storing location of the data attached to the image may be a location in the image file or in another file attached to the image file. It is assumed that the selection of an image is separately performed by a key operation and is not a characteristic part of the embodiment, so that its detailed description is omitted here. In step S3, a check is made to see if the image file has been transferred to any other storing area before. If the image file has been transferred to any other storing area before, step S4 follows. If NO, step S5 follows.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 5, line 3 and ending at line 16, as follows:

--In step S4, a message informing <u>the user</u> that the transferred image file is <u>generated</u> ~~to be erased is notified to the user~~. Specifically speaking, a flickering of the LED, a display of the LCD, or a sound generation of the buzzer is executed. For example,

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in this the embodiment, in the case of flickering the LED, it is assumed that a green LED is lit on ("on") for 250 microseconds at a flickering period of 1 Hz. In the case of displaying the LCD, it is assumed that an "OK" mark and an "ERASING" mark are always indicated and an "ATTENTION" mark is indicated for only 250 microseconds. In the case of the sound generation of the buzzer, it is assumed that a sound of a frequency of 4 kHz is generated for only 250 microseconds at a period of 1 Hz.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 5, line 27 and ending at page 6, line 14, as follows:

--When it is determined that the image is not yet transferred, in step S5, a message that the image file which is not transferred is to be erased is notified to the user. Specifically speaking, the flickering of the LED, the display of the LCD, or the sound generation of the buzzer is executed in a state different from that in the case of erasing the transferred image file. For example, in the case of flickering the LED, it is assumed that a red LED is lit on ("on") for 10 seconds at a flickering period of 4Hz. In the case of displaying the LCD, a "WARNING" mark is always indicated, the "ERASING" mark is flickered at a period of 2 Hz, and the "ATTENTION" mark is indicated for 10 seconds. In the case of the sound generation of the buzzer, a sound of a frequency of 400 Hz is generated for 10 seconds at a period of 4 Hz.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 6, line 15 and ending at line 25, as follows:

--The notification as mentioned above in step S5 is performed by at least one of the above methods, thereby notifying the user that the image to be erased is not

transferred to another storing area ~~to the user of the electronic camera~~. Step S7 follows. In step S7, when the erasing switch is turned off from the ON state, the processing routine is finished. When the erasing switch is ON, step S9 follows. In step S9, the image file which is not transferred is erased while displaying the "ERASING" mark. The processing routine is finished.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 6, line 26 and ending at page 7, line 4, as follows:

--With this construction, before the erasure, the user can know whether the image has been transferred to another storing area or not in steps S4 and S5. Therefore, by turning off the erasing switch in a predetermined time, <u>an</u> ~~the~~ erroneous erasure can be prevented.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 7, line 5 and ending at line 23, as follows:

--Fig. 3 shows a control flowchart of the control circuit 10 in the second embodiment of the <u>present</u> invention. First in step S11, when the erasing switch comprised in the switch group 12 is ON, step S12 follows. If NO, step S11 <u>repeats</u> ~~follows~~. In step S12, data attached to the image selected in this instance is read and step S13 follows. The data attached to the image shows whether the image file has been transferred to another storing area before or not. A storing location of the data may be a location in the image file or in another file attached to the image file. It is assumed that the selection of the image is separately performed by a key operation and is not a feature of the embodiment. Therefore, its detailed description is omitted here. In step S13, a check is made to see if the image file

has been transferred to any other storing area before. If the image file previously has been transferred to any other storing area ~~before~~, step S14 follows. If NO, step S15 follows.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 7, line 24 and ending at page 8, line 10, as follows:

--In step S14, a message informing the user that the transferred image file is generated ~~to be erased is notified to the user~~. Specifically speaking, a flickering of the LED, a display of the LCD, or a sound generation of the buzzer is executed. For example, in this ~~the~~ embodiment, in the case of flickering the LED, it is assumed that a green LED is lit ("on") ~~on~~ for 250 microseconds at a flickering period of 1 Hz. In the case of displaying the LCD, it is assumed that the "OK" mark and the "ERASING" mark are always indicated and the "ATTENTION" mark is indicated for only 250 microseconds. In the case of the sound generation of the buzzer, it is assumed that a sound of a frequency of 4 kHz is generated for only 250 microseconds at a period of 1 Hz.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 8, line 11 and ending at line 27, as follows:

--By performing the notification as mentioned above in step S14 by at least one of those methods, a message that the image to be erased has already been transferred to another storing area is notified to the user of the electronic camera, and step S16 follows. In step S16, when the erasing switch is turned off from the ON state, the processing routine advances to step S18. When the ON state continues, step S22 follows. In step S18, a check is made to see if a predetermined time T1 has elapsed from the time the erasing switch was turned on to the time ~~turn-on of~~ the erasing switch was turned off ~~to the turn-off~~

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thereof. When the predetermined time Tl elapses after the ~~time~~ turn-on of the erasing switch is turned on, step S20 follows. If NO, the image file is not erased but the processing routine is finished. The transferred image file is erased while displaying the "ERASING" mark in step S20 and the processes are finished.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 9, line 1 and ending at line 6, as follows:

--When the ON state of the erasing switch continues, a check is made in step S22 to see if a predetermined time T2 has elapsed after the ~~time~~ turn-on of the erasing switch was turned on. When the predetermined time T2 elapses after the erasing switch was turned on, step S24 follows. If NO, the processing routine is returned to step S16.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 9, line 7 and ending at line 22, as follows:

--When it is determined that the image is not yet transferred, in step S15, a message is generated notifying the user that the image file which is not transferred is to be erased is notified to the user. Specifically speaking, the flickering of the LED, the display of the LCD, or the sound generation of the buzzer is executed in a state different from that in the case of erasing the transferred image file. For example, in the case of flickering the LED, it is assumed that the red LED is lit ~~on~~ ("on") for 10 seconds at a flickering period of 4 Hz. In the case of displaying the LCD, the "WARNING" mark is always indicated, the "ERASING" mark is flickered at a period of 2 Hz, and the "ATTENTION" mark is indicated for 10 seconds. In the case of the sound generation of the buzzer, a sound of a frequency of 400 Hz is generated for 10 seconds at a period of 4 Hz.--

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Please amend the paragraph starting at page 9, line 23 and ending at line 27, as follows:

--The notification as mentioned above in step S15 is performed by at least one of the above methods, thereby notifying the user that the image to be erased is not transferred to another storing area ~~to the user of the electronic camera~~. Step S17 follows.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 10, line 1 and ending at line 11, as follows:

--In step S17, when the erasing switch is turned off from the ON state, step S19 follows. If NO, step S23 follows. In step S19, a check is made to see if a predetermined time T3 has elapsed from the time the erasing switch is turned on to the time ~~turn-on of~~ the erasing switch is turned off ~~to the turn-off thereof~~. When the predetermined time T3 elapses after the time ~~turn-on of~~ the erasing switch is turned on, step S21 follows. If NO, the processing routine is finished. In step S21, the image file which is not transferred is erased while displaying the "ERASING" mark and the processes are finished.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 10, line 12 and ending at page 11, line 12, as follows:

--When the ON state of the erasing switch is continued, a check is made in step S23 to see if a predetermined time T4 has elapsed after the erasing switch was turned on. When the predetermined time T4 elapses after the time ~~turn-on of~~ the erasing switch is turned on, step S24 follows. If NO, the processing routine is returned to step S17. In step

S24, a message informing the user that the erasing operation was stopped is displayed and

the processing routine is finished. With this construction, before the image is erased, the

user can know whether the image has been transferred to another storing area or not in

steps S14 and S15. Therefore, an the erroneous erasure can be prevented by turning off the

erasing switch from the ON state in for a time shorter than the predetermined times T1 and

T3. If the erasing switch is erroneously turned on and the predetermined times T1 and T3

has elapsed, by holding the erasing switch in the ON state for the predetermined times T2

and T4 or more, the erasure of the image file can be also cancelled and an the erroneous

erasure can be prevented even in this case. There are the relations of (T1 < T2) and (T3 <

T4) among the predetermined times T1 to T4. By setting (T1 < T3), as for the image file

which is not transferred, an advance notice of the erasure of a longer time can be

performed as compared with the time in the case of the transferred image file. The

erroneous erasure of an the original image which is not transferred can be prevented.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 11, line 13 and ending at page

12, line 5, as follows:

--Fig. 4 shows a control flowchart of the control circuit 10 according to the

third embodiment of the present invention. First, in step S31, when the erasing switch

provided in the switch group 12 is ON, step S32 follows. If NO, step S31 repeats follows.

In step S32, data attached to the image selected at that time is read and the processing

routine advances to step S33. The data attached to the image shows whether the image file

previously has been transferred to any other storing area before or not. A storing location

of the data may be a location in the image file or in another file attached to the image file.

It is assumed that the selection of an image is separately performed by a key operation and

is not a characteristic part of this the embodiment, so that its detailed description is omitted

here. In step S33, a check is made to see if the image file previously has been transferred to any other storing area before. If the image file has been transferred to any other storing area before, step S34 follows. If NO, step S35 follows.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 12, line 6 and ending at line 19, as follows:

--In step S34, a message informing the user that the transferred image file is to be erased is generated notified to the user. Specifically speaking, a flickering of the LED, a display of the LCD, or a sound generation of the buzzer is executed. For example, in this the embodiment, in the case of flickering the LED, it is assumed that a green LED is lit ("on") on for 250 microseconds at a flickering period of 1 Hz. In the case of displaying the LCD, it is assumed that an "OK" mark and an "ERASING" mark are always indicated and an "ATTENTION" mark is indicated for only 250 microseconds. In the case of the sound generation of the buzzer, it is assumed that a sound of a frequency of 4 kHz is generated for only 250 microseconds at a period of 1 Hz.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 13, line 1 and ending at line 13, as follows:

--In step S38, a check is made to see if the predetermined time Tl has elapsed from the time the erasing switch is turned on to the time turn-on of the erasing switch is turned off to the turn-off thereof. When the predetermined time Tl elapses after the erasing switch was turned on, step S40 follows. If NO, the processing routine is finished. In step S40, the transferred image file is erased while displaying the "ERASING" mark and the processing routine is finished. When the ON state of the erasing switch is

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continued, by turning on an erasing cancel switch comprised in the switch group 12 in step S42, the image file is not erased but the processing routine is finished. If NO, step S36 follows.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 13, line 14 and ending at page 14, line 2, as follows:

--When it is determined that the image is not yet transferred, in step S35, a message that the image file which is not transferred is to be erased is notified to the user. Specifically speaking, the flickering of the LED, the display of the LCD, or the sound generation of the buzzer is executed in a state different from that in the case of erasing the transferred image file. For example, in the case of flickering the LED, it is assumed that the red LED is lit ("on") on for 10 seconds at a flickering period of 4 Hz. In the case of displaying the LCD, the "WARNING" mark is always indicated, the "ERASING" mark is flickered at a period of 2 Hz, and the "ATTENTION" mark is indicated for 10 seconds. In the case of the sound generation of the buzzer, a sound of a frequency of 400 Hz is generated for 10 seconds at a period of 4 Hz.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 14, line 3 and ending at line 16, as follows:

-- The notification as mentioned above in step S35 is performed by at least one of the above methods, thereby notifying the user that the image to be erased is not transferred to another string area to the user of the electronic camera. Step S37 follows. In step S37, when the erasing switch is turned off from the ON state, step S39 follows. When the ON state is continued, step S43 follows. In step S39, a check is made to see if the

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elapsed time from the time the erasing switching is turned on to the time turn-on of the

erasing switch is turned off to the turn-off thereof is equal to the predetermined time T3.

When the predetermined time T3 elapses after the erasing switch was turned on, step S41

follows. If NO, the processing routine is finished.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 14, line 17 and ending at page

15, line 9, as follows:

--In step S41, the image file which is not transferred is erased while

displaying the "ERASING" mark and the processing routine is finished. When the ON

state of the erasing switch is continued, in the case where the erasing cancel switch is

turned on, a message informing the user that the erasing operation of the image file was

stopped is displayed in step S43. The processing routine is finished. If NO, the processing

routine is returned to step S37. With this construction, before the image is erased, the user

can know whether the image has been transferred to another storing area or not in steps

S34 and S35. Therefore, an the erroneous erasure can be prevented by turning off the

erasing switch from the ON state for a time shorter than the predetermined times T1 and

T3. If the erasing switch is erroneously turned on and the predetermined times T1 and T3

have elapsed, by turning on the erasing cancel switch, the erasure of the image file can be

cancelled and an the erroneous erasure can be prevented.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 15, line 9 and ending at line 19,

as follows:

--Although each of the foregoing embodiments has been described based on

the assumption that the control circuit 10 holds the data attached to the image, specifically

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speaking, a message informing the user that the transfer instructing switch in the switch group 12 was depressed can be also stored in an internal RAM of the control circuit 10 together with the image number or the image number when the image signal is transferred from the internal storage device 11 to the external storage device 8 also can be ~~also~~ stored into the internal RAM together with a fact of the transference.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 15, line 20 and ending at line 24, as follows:

--In the step of displaying that the image file which is not transferred is to be erased, an instruction to again depress the erasing switch in order to forcedly erase the image file also can be ~~also~~ displayed simultaneously with this ~~the~~ display.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 15, line 25 and ending at page 16, line 5, as follows:

--Although the embodiments have been described above with respect to the example of an ~~the~~ electronic camera, particularly, when controlling with respect to the recording, reading, and erasing, each embodiment also can be ~~also~~ applied to a case of a recording control apparatus in which the easy erasure of the recording information due to a special awakening of attention and carelessness upon erasing is prevented.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 16, line 6 and ending at line 19, as follows:

--According to each of the embodiments as described above, by changing the display format of the display device in accordance with the data attached to the image when erasing the image file, the user can determine judges the state of the image and can prevent an the erroneous erasure. Since the data attached to the image includes data regarding the presence or absence of a prior the transfer of the image file or the like from the storing area where the image is stored at present to another storing area, the user can determine judges whether the image file is an image file which has already been transferred to another storing area and can be erased or an image file existing in only such a storing area, and can prevent erroneous erasure.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 16, line 20 and ending at page 17, line 6, as follows:

--The presence or absence of the transference can be distinguished by the LED by at least one of the color of the LED, the flickering period of the LED, and the light-on time of the LED, and/or the presence or absence of the transference can be distinguished by the LCD by at least one of the shape of segment of the LCD, the flickering period of the LCD, and the on time of the LCD, and/or the presence or absence of the transference can be distinguished by the sound device such as a buzzer or the like by at least one of the frequency of the buzzer, the on/off period of the buzzer, and the sound generating time of the buzzer. Thus, the user can easily determine simply judges the state and can prevent an the erroneous erasure.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 17, line 7 and ending at line 10, as follows:

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--By turning off the erasing switch in the first predetermined time, the execution of the erasure of the image file can be stopped, so that the user can determine judges the state and can prevent the erroneous erasure.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 17, line 16 and ending at line 19, as follows:

--By turning on the erasing cancel switch before the erasing switch is turned off, the execution of the image erasure can be stopped, so that the user can determine judges the state and can prevent an the erroneous erasure.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 18, line 4 and ending at line 6, as follows:

--Even by constructing the electronic camera as mentioned above, an the erroneous erasure of the image can be reliably certainly prevented.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 18, line 7 and ending at line 10, as follows:

--Further, even in a recording control apparatus, an the erroneous erasure or the like can be effectively prevented in a manner similar to the case of the electronic camera.--